

We're working to make our public schools the best in the world, with smaller classes, better facilities, more master teachers and charter schools, higher standards, an end to social promotion. But the new economy also demands that our Nation commit to technology literacy for every child. We shouldn't let a child graduate from middle school anymore without knowing how to use new technologies to learn.

Already, 10 States with an eye to the future have made technology literacy a requirement of graduation from high school. I believe we should meet this goal in the middle school years. I believe every child in every State should leave middle school able to use the most current tools for learning, research, communication, and collaboration. And we will help every State to meet this goal.

If a State commits to adopt a technology literacy requirement then we will help to provide the training that the teachers need. I propose to create a team of trained technology experts for every American middle school in every one of these States and to create competitions over the next 3 years to encourage the development of high-quality educational software and educational web sites by students and professors and commercial software companies.

All students should feel as comfortable with a keyboard as a chalkboard, as comfortable with a laptop as a textbook. It is critical to ensuring that they all have opportunity in the world of the 21st century.

Today I pledge the resources and unrelenting efforts of our Nation to renew our enduring values in the information age. But the challenges that we face cannot be met by Government alone. We can only fulfill the promise of this revolution if we work together in the same way it was launched together, with creativity, resolve, a restless spirit of innovation.

While this mission requires the efforts of every citizen, those who fuel and enjoy the unparalleled prosperity of this moment have special responsibilities. The thriving new companies that line Route 128 in Silicon Valley—I challenge them to use their power to empower others, to invest in a school, embrace a community in need, endow an eager young mind with opportunity, not to rest

until every one of our children is technology literate. Many of you are doing such work already and many of them are; but America needs all such companies to participate.

And finally, to the graduates of the class of 1998, I, too, offer my congratulations and, as your President, my gratitude for your commitment, for challenges conquered, for projects completed, for goals reached and even surpassed. You, your parents, and your friends should be very proud today, and very hopeful, for all the possibilities of this new age are open to you. You are at the peak of your powers and the world will rightly reward you for the work you do.

But to make the very most of your life and the opportunities you have been given, you, too, must rise to your responsibility to give something back to America of what you have been given. As the years pass your generation will be judged, and you will begin to judge yourselves not only on what you do for yourself and your family but on the contributions you make to others, to your country, your communities, your generation of children. When you turn your good fortune into a chance for others, you then will not only be leaders in science and industry, you will become the leaders of America. Twenty-first century America belongs to you. Take good care of it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Killian Court on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In his remarks, he referred to Charles M. Vest, president, MIT; Alexander d'Arbeloff, chairman, and Paul Gray, former chairman, the Corporation of MIT; Mayor Francis H. Duehay of Cambridge; Dr. David D. Ho, scientific director, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center; and Ernest Moniz, Under Secretary of Energy.

Statement on House of Representatives Support for Tobacco Legislation

June 5, 1998

I am pleased to see that momentum for tobacco legislation is now building in the House of Representatives. The bipartisan

comprehensive legislation proposed by Representatives Hansen, Meehan, and Waxman now has over 90 cosponsors committed to reducing youth smoking. This is a good, tough bill. It reaffirms the FDA's full authority over tobacco and includes strong restrictions on advertising and marketing of tobacco products to young people. It contains important protections against exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and tough company-specific surcharges to encourage companies to reduce youth smoking. I look forward to working with Representatives Hansen, Meehan, Waxman and all of their House colleagues to improve this bill in order to protect farmers and farming communities. With this change, I would be pleased to sign this bill. I call upon the House of Representatives to take it up and get down to the serious business of reducing youth smoking in this country.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 30

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton attended a brunch with a small group of Georgetown University alumni at Blair House. In the evening, they hosted a gala for the 30th anniversary Georgetown University class of 1968 on the South Lawn.

June 1

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward L. Romero to be Ambassador to Andorra.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jamie Rappaport Clark to serve as a Commissioner, U.S. Government Representative, of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts

in the area struck by floods, severe storms, and tornadoes.

June 2

In the morning, the President traveled to Houston, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with the following individuals: Marissa Rene Marino, a cancer patient who was to be at the arrival in Houston but had to receive chemotherapy in California; Susan Goldwater, widow of the late Barry M. Goldwater, to inform her that Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt would attend Mr. Goldwater's funeral on June 3; and Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet concerning nuclear proliferation in South Asia.

In the afternoon, the President briefly visited former Senator and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen. Later, he traveled to Dallas, TX. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

June 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Cleveland, OH, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will travel to China June 25–July 3.

June 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Cambridge, MA, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Lincoln, MA. In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael H. Trujillo to be Director of the Indian Health Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ertharin Cousin Moore as a member of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.
